

Sen. Brown Presents Summit County Police with Congressional Badge of Bravery

Officer Ben Campbell Awarded Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery for Stopping Shooting Rampage That Killed 7 People, Including 3 Children

Monday, March 25, 2013

COPLEY, OH – U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) presented local hero and Summit County police officer Ben Campbell, from Copley, with the Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery. Brown gave congratulatory remarks today at the officer's award ceremony that recognized him for stopping an August 2011 shooting rampage that ended the lives of seven people—including three children—and injured one.

"Officer Ben Campbell is a hero whose bravery saved lives in the wake of tragedy," said Brown. "He did what many of us hope we would do by acting swiftly when fellow citizens were in danger, and exhibited the courage that has earned him this Congressional Badge of Bravery. I am proud to be his Senator."

The Congressional Badge of Bravery is an annual award given to public safety officers who display bravery in the line of duty. Created in 2008, when Congress passed the Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery Act of 2008, the award honors the exceptional acts of bravery that law enforcement officers engage in while in the line of duty. Often, such acts place the officers involved at personal risk of injury or result in their sustaining a physical injury. The badges are awarded annually by the U.S. Attorney General and are presented by the recipients' Congressional representatives.

Brown has long been a champion for police officers who put their lives in danger in order to better protect our communities. Brown is a cosponsor of legislation that would create a national "Blue Alert" system aimed at apprehending criminals who injure or kill law enforcement officers serving in the line of duty. With Ohio bordering five other states, a national Blue Alert system would help track down even those criminals who attempt to flee to other states.

When a Blue Alert is activated, media broadcasts and Department of Transportation messaging signs would be utilized to distribute information identifying a detailed description of the offender, the offender's vehicle, and license plate information. C.O.P.S. notes that such an alert could help hinder the assailants' ability to flee the state and might also facilitate a speedier capture of the criminal, helping to eliminate the threat they would pose on other communities and law enforcement personnel. The bill has been endorsed by several law enforcement organizations, including C.O.P.S., the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), the National Sheriff's Association, and the Sergeant's Benevolent Association.

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